Dweb principles draft for review

PURPOSE

These principles describe the philosophies of institutions and individuals designing and building the web of the future, the web for all. These principles should shape expectations, behaviors, and set the bases for mutual accountability.

PRINCIPLES

1. Human Rights

I. Respect for the human rights of individuals and communities is central and vital, especially for those who experience systemic inequity and prejudice.

II. In the digital sphere, the rights to free expression, privacy, and knowledge are paramount. The objective in building a distributed web is to empower people — to enable them to have agency over their own data and relationships across networks.

III. We do not condone the use of distributed tools for harmful purposes including but not limited to human trafficking, sexual or physical abuse, arms trading, and other immoral trafficking and trades.

2. Distributed benefits

I. We believe in the distribution of the rewards and recognition of success, monetary or otherwise, among those who contributed to that success. If that is infeasible commensurate benefit should flow to the community at large.

3. Technology-agnostic

I. We believe that multiple technical means can be used to achieve ethical and people-centric outcomes. We encourage interoperability and discourage walled gardens, however this is not a forum for promoting or preferring technical approaches.

4. Permissionless

I. We support the spirit of invention and participation from anywhere, by anyone, without permission from government agencies or from dominant corporations.

II. We encourage people and organizations to develop, modify, and use tools to suit specific needs and conditions.

5. Inclusive

I. We coexist — thriving alone or alongside other projects. We embrace a diversity of philosophies, approaches, and technologies to implement the distributed web.

II. We aspire to be of and to look like the world: to include and work with and to interoperate and cooperate with people like us and people different from us, those who publicly join us and those who don't.

6. Respectful

I. We treat each other with humility and self-awareness, our arguments build on facts and logic. If we make a mistake, we will be conscientious in acknowledging them; when others make mistakes, we will be polite when identifying them.

7. Transparent

I. Transparency enables mutual trust and respect. We urge open and transparent practices, motivations, and governance to the extent possible.

8. Value for the Environment

I. We must consider the destructive impacts technologies can have on the natural world. Best practices should aim for low ecological impact, lower energy consumption, and enhanced device lifetimes.